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Appl. No. 09/755,470
Amdt. dated January 29, 2007
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2006

Remarks

The present request for reconsideration replies to the Official Action mailed September 28, 2006. A petition for a one month's extension and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1058 the one month extension for of \$120 accompany this amendment. Claims 1-5 and 7-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Massarani U.S. Patent No. 6,393,484 (Massarani) in view of Bhagwat et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,651,105 (Bhagwat). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Massarani in view of Bhagwat in further view of Redlich U.S. Patent No. 6,591,306 (Redlich). Claims 14 and 15 were rejected over Massarani in view of Bhagwat in further view of Schuster et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,857,072 (Schuster). These grounds of rejection are addressed below following a brief discussion of the present invention to provide context. Claims 1, 7 and 10 have been amended to be more clear and distinct. Claims 1-15 are presently pending.

The Present Invention

Among its several aspects the present invention addresses security problems presented when wireless networks connect with wired networks. The Background of the Invention describes the problem and several prior art approaches to the problem in some detail. Page 1, line 8-page 4, line 3. As addressed in greater detail below, once a wireless network client has been authenticated, a unique session key to be used for encrypted communication with the wired network is provided. The session key is used by the client during one connection session to the wired network. Page 4, lines 17-22. An eavesdropper cannot gain access to network information

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because all traffic over the wireless network which contains substantive information from the wired network is encrypted. Page 5, lines 6 and 7.

The Art Rejections

The art rejections are based on Massarani in view of Bhagwat (claims 1-5 and 7-13) or Massarani in view of Bhagwat in combination with Redlich (claim 6) or Schuster (claims 14 and 15). These art rejections are not supported by the relied upon items, and the analysis supporting those rejections is traversed in its entirety.

Massarani addresses a "System or Method for Controlled Access to Shared-Medium Public and Semi-Public Interest Protocol (IP) Networks." Massarani, Title. Massarani addresses how "to control and restrict access to the networks only to authorized and registered devices and users. One example of the problem relates to corporate IP network administrators who deal with an increasingly mobile work force that have deployed IP network access ports (typically IEEE 802.X or similar medium) throughout their corporate facilities for shared use by their employees." Massarani, col. 1, lines 14-25. "A strong concern in the use of such networks is preventing visitors or unauthorized persons from taking advantage of the exposed network access ports to gain IP connectivity to the internal corporate network (intranet). Col. 1, lines 27-30. Massarani continues with a discussion of prior art (col. 1, line 50 – col. 2, line 62) concluding, "Such systems rely on encryption and sophisticated key management system which makes such techniques expensive, inflexible, and not suitable for shared-medium public and semi-public IP networks What is needed is a system and method that is applicable to existing and future network access infrastructures which works in conjunction with popular and established IP

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protocols and communication layer network equipment without requiring any modifications to currently used internet protocols." Massarani, col. 2, line 62-col. 3, line 4. As such Massarani is a very poor reference for purposes of any obviousness analysis, as if anything, it teaches away from the presently claimed invention.

The Official Action correctly admits that Massarani fails to teach both "the server being further operative to encrypt communications with the wireless network access point" and "the server being further operative to provide a cryptographic key valid for the connection session to the client upon authentication of the client". As presently amended, the latter part of claim 1 now reads "the server being further operative to provide a cryptographic key to the client to be used for encrypted communication with the wired network and valid for the connection session".

As addressed in greater detail below, the Official Action's reliance upon Bhagwat as a basis for curing these admitted deficiencies of Massarani is misplaced. The Official Action refers to Bhagwat col. 8, lines 19-46. This text refers to "a random secret key" which is used when the mobile device "wants to redirect the PPP traffic to a new terminal session" for the purpose of preventing "terminal redirection attacks to already established PPP connections by malicious users." Combining Bhagwat with Massarani would result in an apparatus possibly able to withstand such attacks, but it would not meet the present claims in which the cryptographic key is used "for encrypted communication with the wired network" as in claims 1 and 10 or "to conduct encrypted transfer of data" as in claim 7.

Further, the Official Action indicates that "communication can be encrypted if required" relying on Bhagwat col. 4, lines 36-54 and also col. 2, lines 20-24; however, the relied upon

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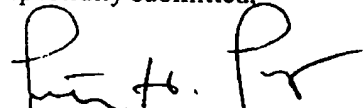
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portions of Bhagwat fail to teach the claimed cryptographic key which is "valid for the connection session upon authentication of the client" as claimed in claims 1, 7 and 10.

Conclusion

All of the presently pending claims, as amended, appearing to define over the applied references, withdrawal of the present rejection and prompt allowance are requested. In the event any questions remain concerning this response, a telephone interview to include the Examiner's supervisor is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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